

CLAIMS:

1. A method (21) particularly for use in a medical environment, to develop an executable template (16e) of an image processing protocol (18), said method comprising the steps of:

- creating a set of anatomical marks (13a,13b) in an image (17b), said marks having respective associated image positions;
- combining said marks (13a,13b) to form geometric objects (13c,13d);
- defining a sequence of operations with said geometric objects by means of an interactive protocol editor (16), wherein each operation is logged as an entry (16d) in a geometrical relational application framework macro;
- 10 - storing said sequence of operations in said template (16f).

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein for creating a set of anatomical marks an interactive graphical toolbox (12) is provided for purposes of defining the associated image positions.

15

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of creating a set of anatomical marks is performed automatically based on pixel values of an area of interest (17a') within the image.

20

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein a location of the area of interest (17a') is determined from a pre-stored look-up table comprising image coordinates of the area of interest corresponding to a type of the image processing protocol for said image.

25

5. A method according to claim 3, wherein a location of the area of interest (17a') is determined from a further look-up table arranged to store a plurality of linkings of the area of interest to reference objects within the image.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of combining said marks (13a,13b) to form geometric objects (13c,13d) is performed by means of an interactive graphical editor (14a).
- 5 7. A method according to claim 6, wherein each geometric object (13c) is assigned a directional linking to other objects (13d) to form relational geometric objects.
8. A method according to claim 1, wherein for defining a sequence of operations (16d) with said geometric objects by means of an interactive editor (16) use is made of a set
- 10 10. of connected graphical toolkit blocks (12,14a,14b).
9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the operations are selected from a list of pre-stored operations (18).
- 15 10. A device (10) arranged to carry out the steps of the method according to any one of the preceding Claims, said device comprising:
 - means (12) for creating a set of anatomical marks (13a,13b) in an image (17b), said marks having respective associated image positions;
 - means (14a) for combining said marks to form geometric objects (13c,13d);
 - means (16) for defining a sequence of operations with said geometric objects by means of an interactive protocol editor, wherein each operation is logged as an entry (16d) in a geometrical relational application framework macro;
 - means (7,16f) for storing said sequence of operations in said template.
- 20 11. A medical examination apparatus (1) comprising the device according to claim 10.
- 25 12. A computer program arranged to carry out the steps of the method according to any one of the preceding claims 1 to 9.
- 30 13. A computer program according to claim 12 comprising a user interface (5c) arranged to echo the steps of the method to the user.

14. A computer program particularly for use in a medical environment to carry out automated customized image handling, said computer program comprising:
- means for selecting a pre-stored template (18) of an image processing protocol from a plurality of pre-stored templates, said template comprising a sequence of operations
- 5 16d) with a plurality of reference geometrical objects (13c,13d), said sequence being logged as a plurality of instructions within a geometrical relational application framework macro, said objects being defined for a plurality of reference marks (13a,13b);
- means for entering a plurality of actual marks for an actual image;
 - means for constructing actual geometrical objects for the actual image by
- 10 means of referencing the actual marks to the reference marks;
- means for executing the sequence of operations on the actual geometrical objects.
15. A computer program according to claim 14, wherein means for the selecting of the pre-stored template is arranged to address a database (18) of templates.
16. A computer program according to claim 15, wherein the computer program further comprises:
- means for customizing the sequence of operations on the actual geometrical objects by means of a connected graphical toolkit (12,14a,14b).
17. A computer program according to claim 14, wherein means for entering a plurality of actual marks comprises a graphical input device (5b,12).
- 25 18. A computer program according to claim 14, wherein said computer program comprises means for defining a position of an actual mark from a pixel value of an area of interest (17a') within the actual image.
19. A computer program according to any one of the preceding claims 14-18,
- 30 wherein said computer program comprises a user interface (5c) arranged to interactively communicate to the user.
- 20 A device comprising a computer program according to any one of the preceding claims 14-19.

21. A medical examination apparatus comprising the device according to
claim 20.